


IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of an attached companion **product vending** device; said attached companion **product vending** device delivering at least one first product purchased by a user; said user initiating said purchase by conveying payment to said companion device and exercising an actuator; the apparatus comprising:

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- (a) a control means for controlling the apparatus in dispensing at least one ~~indicium~~ **of value coupon** in response to said exercising; **said at least one coupon being redeemable for value in connection with purchasing at least one second product;**
 - (b) a providing means for effecting said dispensing; said providing means being coupled with said control means and responsive to said control means; and
 - (c) a **direct** link between the apparatus and said ~~companion device~~ **actuator** for effecting said cooperation.

2. (Cancelled)


3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of an attached **product vending** companion device as recited in Claim 1 wherein the apparatus further comprises:

- (d) a communication means coupled with said control means for communicating operational information with the apparatus regarding operation of the apparatus; and
- (e) a memory means coupled with said communication means for storing said operational information.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of an attached companion **product vending** device as recited in Claim 3 wherein said

communication means comprises a telephone connection with a remote controlling station

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of an attached companion **product vending** device as recited in Claim 3 wherein said communication means comprises an access port for providing control access by an operator effecting a connection with the apparatus via said access port.



6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of an attached companion **product vending** device as recited in Claim 3 wherein said communication means comprises a satellite communication connection with a remote controlling station.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device as recited in Claim 1, 3, 4, 5 or 6 wherein said **at least one indicium of value comprises a coupon; said coupon being redeemable for at least one second product actuator operates a door of said attached companion product vending device to provide access by said user to a storage cavity containing at least one of said at least one first product.**

8. (Cancelled)


9. (Withdrawn)

10. (Withdrawn)

11. (Withdrawn)

12. (Withdrawn)

13. (Withdrawn)



14. (Withdrawn)

15. (Withdrawn)

16. (Withdrawn)

17. (Withdrawn)


18. (Currently Amended) A method for operating an apparatus in cooperation with operation of an attached companion **product vending** device; said attached companion **product vending** device delivering at least one first product purchased by a user; said user initiating said purchase by conveying payment to said companion device and exercising an actuator; the method comprising the steps of:

(a) In no particular order:

(1) providing a control means coupled with said apparatus;

(2) providing a dispensing means coupled with said control means; and

- (3) providing a direct link between said apparatus and said ~~companion device~~ actuator;
- (b) exercising said actuator ~~operating said link~~ to effect said cooperation; and
- (c) operating said control means to operate said dispensing means to dispense at least one ~~indicium of value~~ coupon in response to said exercising; said at least one coupon being redeemable for value in connection with purchasing at least one second product.



19. (Currently Amended) A method for operating an apparatus in cooperation with operation of an attached companion product vending device as recited in Claim 18 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

- (d) in no particular order:
- (1) providing a communication means coupled with the apparatus; and
- (2) providing a memory means coupled with said communication means;
- (e) operating said communication means to communicate operational information with the apparatus regarding operation of the apparatus; and
- (f) operate operating said memory means to store said operational information.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for operating an apparatus in cooperation with operation of an attached companion product vending device as recited in Claim 19 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

- (g) communicating at least one directive with the apparatus from a locus remote from the apparatus; said directive effecting a change regarding said at least one ~~indicium of value~~ coupon.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of a companion product vending device; said companion product vending device and the apparatus being assembled in a unitary configuration; said companion product vending

device delivering at least one first product purchased by a user; said user initiating said purchase by conveying payment to said companion device and exercising an actuator; the apparatus comprising:

- (a) a control means for controlling the apparatus in dispensing at least one ~~indiciu~~ **of value coupon** in response to said exercising; **said coupon being redeemable for value in connection with purchasing at least one second product;**
- (b) a providing means coupled with said control means for effecting said dispensing; and
- (c) a **direct** link between the apparatus and said ~~companion device~~ **actuator** for effecting said cooperation.


22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of a companion **product vending** device as recited in Claim 21 wherein the apparatus further comprises:

- (d) a communication means coupled with said control means for communicating operational information with the apparatus from outside the apparatus regarding operation of the apparatus; and
- (e) a memory means coupled with said communication means for storing said operational information.

23. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of a companion **product vending** device as recited in Claim 22 wherein said communication means comprises a telephone connection with a remote controlling station

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of a companion **product vending** device as recited in Claim 22 wherein said communication means comprises an access port for providing control access by an operator effecting a connection with the apparatus via said access port.

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of a companion **product vending** device as recited in Claim 22 wherein said communication means comprises a satellite communication connection with a remote controlling station.



26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device as recited in Claim **21**, 22, 23, 24 or 25 wherein said ~~at least one indicium of value comprises a coupon; said coupon being redeemable for at least one second product~~ **actuator operates a door of said attached companion device to provide access by said user to a storage cavity containing at least one of said at least one first product.**

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a ~~newspaper~~ vending device; said ~~newspaper~~ vending device having an interior storage cavity for storing a plurality of ~~newspaper~~ **units of a product** and a door; said door being enabled for moving from a closed position to an open position by a user conveying payment to said ~~newspaper~~ vending device; said cavity being accessible by said user when said door is in said open position; the apparatus comprising:


(a) a control unit for controlling the apparatus in dispensing at least one ~~indiciu~~ **of value coupon** in response to said door moving from said closed position to said open position; **said at least one coupon being redeemable for at least one product;**

(b) a providing means for effecting said dispensing; said providing means being coupled with said control means and responsive to said control means; and

(c) a **direct** link between the apparatus and said ~~newspaper vending device~~ **door** for effecting said cooperation.

29. (Previously Submitted) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a **newspaper** vending device as recited in Claim 28 wherein the apparatus further comprises:

- (d) a communication means coupled with said control means for communicating operational information with the apparatus regarding operation of the apparatus; and
- (e) a memory means coupled with said communication means for storing said operational information.



30. (Previously Submitted) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a **newspaper** vending device as recited in as recited in Claim 29 wherein said communication means comprises a telephone connection with a remote controlling station


31. (Previously Submitted) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a **newspaper** vending device as recited in as recited in Claim 29 wherein said communication means comprises an access port for providing control access by an operator effecting a connection with the apparatus via said access port.

32. (Previously Submitted) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a **newspaper** vending device as recited in as recited in Claim 29 wherein said communication means comprises a satellite communication connection with a remote controlling station.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Submitted) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a **newspaper** vending device as recited in Claim 29 wherein said link is a mechanical link connecting said door with the apparatus.



36. (Previously Submitted) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a **newspaper** vending device as recited in Claim 29 wherein said link is an electronic link connecting said door with the apparatus.
